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COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR

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Address Correspondence and Telephone Calls To:

Relative, Foster, Residential, Independent and Private Glenn Mills, Vision Quest and Private Agency
Adoptions Kids Peace

Sue Darhower, (717) 772-5502
Susan McNear, (717) 772-5501
Traci Petrino, (717) 772-5541
Kim Deibler, (717) 772-5503

Heather Seilhamer, (717) 772-5507

Note: Pennsylvania has a tri compact office combining the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA) and the Interstate Compact on Juveniles (ICJ). The Compact Administrator and the Deputy Compact Administrator are the same persons listed above for all three compacts. There are two additional Deputy Compact Administrators for ICAMA. The Director of the Interstate Compact Unit is **Larry Yarberough. Telephone: (717) 772-5506.**

To mail **Federal Express and over night** items, use the following address:

Division of State Services
Interstate Compact Unit
HillCrest, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg State Hospital
Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103

ICPC Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time Zone.

FAX: (717) 772-6857

GENERAL INFORMATION

ICPC Code Citation. 62 P.S. Secs. 761–765.

Statutory Penalties Under Article IV. Violation and conviction a misdemeanor; fine of not more than \$100 or imprisonment of not more than thirty days or both. 62 P.S. Secs. 753.

Age of Majority. 18 years. 62 P.S. Sec. 746.

Court Jurisdiction. Court of Common Pleas of each county; voluntary relinquishment, involuntary termination and adoption proceedings. 1 P.S. Sec. 201.

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SPECIAL INFORMATION

Custody Investigations: Divorce Cases and Those Unrelated to the ICPC.

Content.

1. Requests for non ICPC custody investigations may be sent directly to the local county children and youth agency, if county of residence is known. If unknown, call the ICPC office or send your request, in duplicate, to the ICPC office for forwarding. Investigations for Allegheny and Tioga Counties are conducted by the Domestic Relations Court.
2. Fees vary from county to county. Agency's acknowledgment of request will disclose any fees involved.
3. One copy of court order and cover letter must accompany referral made direct to county children and youth agency. Two copies of court order and cover letter are required if referred through ICPC office.

REQUIREMENTS

Reports. Every three months for foster care placements and parental placements; or otherwise as indicated on the ICPC-100A.

Licensing Requirements. The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare licenses placement agencies and facilities. Foster homes are approved by the licensed agency based on state standards. Children and youth services in Pennsylvania are county administered/state supervised.

Child Abuse History Clearance of Prospective Adoptive and Foster Parents. Effective January 1, 1986 Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law (11 P.S. 2201) was amended to protect children receiving child care services by requiring prospective employees of in-state child care programs to verify the absence of child abuse or child-related criminal history. It also includes prospective adoptive parents, foster parents and relatives receiving compensation for the care of children. Fees are \$10.00 per person for the Department of Public Welfare check and \$10.00 per person for State Police check. **In addition, prospective adoptive parents from outside Pennsylvania who will finalize the adoption in Pennsylvania must be cleared with an FBI records clearance.** Further inquiries may be made to: Child Line Verification Unit (717) 783-6211. (8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

PLACEMENTS

Independent Adoptive Placements. These adoptions are lawful provided the intermediary files the following information with a court: (1) the name and address of the intermediary; (2) the name, sex, racial background, age, date and place of birth and religious affiliation of the child; (3) the date of the placement of the child with the adopting parent or parents; (4) the name, racial background, age, marital status as of the time of birth of the child and during one year prior thereto, and religious affiliation of the parents of the child; (5) identification of the proceeding in which any decree of termination of parental rights, or parental rights and duties, with respect to the child was entered; (6) the residence of the parents or parent of the child, if there has been no such decree of termination; (7) a statement that all consents required are attached as exhibits or that the basis upon which the consents are not required are attached as exhibits or that the basis upon which the consents are not required; (8) an itemized accounting of moneys and consideration paid or to be paid to or received

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by the intermediary or to or by any other person or persons to the knowledge of the intermediary by reason of the adoption placement; (9) a full description and statement of the value of all property owned or possessed by the child; (10) a statement that no provision of any statute regulating the interstate placement of children has been violated with respect to the placement of the child; (11) if no birth certificate or certification of registration of birth can be obtained, a statement of the reason therefor; (12) a statement that medical history information was obtained and if not obtained, a statement of the reason therefor. 1 P.S. sec. 331.

Adoption Petition. Before the court will enter a decree of adoption the following must have occurred: (1) a home investigation must have been completed; (2) a report of intermediary must have been filed; and (3) the parental rights of natural parents must have been terminated. For adoptions finalized in Pennsylvania, the child abuse history clearance described above must be presented to the court.

Adoption petitions may be filed at any of the following locations according to Pennsylvania law. (1) Jurisdiction where the adoptive parents or person filing the report of intent to adopt resides. (2) Jurisdiction where an office of the agency with custody or the agency that has placed the child is located. (3) With court permission under the jurisdiction where the adoptee formerly resided.

Residential Placements.

-Placements Requiring Interstate Approval: Placements made by any persons other than specified relatives into foster or adoptive homes or in licensed residential facilities require approval.

-Requirements for Placement: ICPC-100A, social summary, diagnostic evaluation and custody documents.

-Approval of Facilities: Licensing approvals are given based on annual inspections against published regulations.

-Rate Setting: Pennsylvania does not have a rate setting mechanism. Rates are negotiated between private providers and the purchaser of service.

-Monitoring of the Child: Quarterly reports are requested of the facility or otherwise as indicated on the ICPC-100A.

-Philosophy for the Placement of Non-Resident Youth: The prospective facility must be licensed or approved to provide the type of service requested. The placement must comply with the laws of the sending state and the state of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania will pay particular attention to ensure that Article VI requirements are met.

Requirements for Foster Care Placements. The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare licenses foster care agencies, both public and private, who in turn have the power to approve foster homes based on state standards. PA Kinship care policy requires that children placed into or out of PA with relatives must be placed in homes that meet foster care requirements of the receiving state.

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PAYMENTS

TANF Payments. Sending state is ultimately financially responsible for the child. TANF is provided for by Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare with a relative if need is established.

Medicaid Payments: If the child is Title IV–E eligible and a maintenance payment is made to the caretaker he/she is eligible for Medicaid in the state of residence.

Adoption Assistance. Adoption Assistance payment may be paid to adoptive parents who reside out of state provided requirements of 55 PA Code, Chapter 3140 are met. Adoption Assistance payments may not exceed the maximum foster care rate set by the county agency. Payment may begin at the time of placement when an adoption assistance agreement is in effect, regardless of the existence of a final judicial decree.

Pennsylvania is a member of ICAMA and reciprocates with all states.

Special Education Payments. The sending state retains responsibility for the cost of education, either public or private. Although there are no tuition costs imposed for children in foster care, those in institutional care must have tuition paid by the sending state.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Child Abuse Hot Line. 24 hours a day. Telephone: (717) 783–8744.

Child Abuse History Verification Unit. Telephone: (717) 783–6211. 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Juvenile Compact Office. Amanda Behe, Department of Public Welfare, HillCrest Building, 2nd Floor, P. O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Telephone: (717) 772–5504. 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Mental Health Compact Office. Telephone: (717) 787–5655. 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange. Telephone: 1–800–227–0225. 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Pennsylvania Adoption Medical History Registry. Telephone: 1-800-227-0224. 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Sandy Gallagher, Department of Public Welfare, Bertolino Bldg. 4th Floor, POB 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675. The Registry is a means for birth parents to share family medical history with the child they have placed for adoption.